

# OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2023



## DINNER ORDERS

**DINNER ORDERS WILL BE TAKEN ON A FRIDAY ONLY - FOR THE WEEK AHEAD. THE ORDER FOR THE WEEK MUST BE ACCOMPANIED WITH PAYMENT.**

If paying by cheque, these must be made payable to "Education Authority Western Region." An order form will be sent home each Thursday in the homework folder and must be returned on the Friday in an envelope with payment.

**NO ORDERS WILL BE TAKEN DURING THE WEEK.**

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS & LUNCHES

Just a little reminder to forward your free meals application to EA if you think you are eligible, by applying online via this link;

[Apply for free school meals](#)

If your child is taking free school meals in school, this information will remain within personnel and will **NOT** be communicated to pupils.

### LUNCHES

Could we please ask that sugary treats are restricted to one treat only in the lunch box. Sandwiches, fruit, yoghurt and one treat is sufficient for a substantial lunch and prevents hyperactivity in the afternoon!

## ABSENCES

If your child is off school **FOR ANY REASON**, please ring the school office from 9.15am to let the school know the reason for the absence. Please ensure your child is well before returning to school after a sickness, to avoid the spread of any infections.

## PARENT COMMUNICATION WITH SCHOOL

If you wish to discuss or bring forward any ideas with Mrs Grugan or a class teacher, please phone the office. Please be aware that emails will not be responded to and the text system is **one way only**, so it is best to phone the office with queries.

## HAMILTON'S SPAR PRESENTATION

We were delighted to welcome representatives from Hamilton's Spar into the school at the beginning of term. They kindly presented our new P1's with goodie bags & the staff with vouchers. What a kind gesture!



## ADORATION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT

Father Colhoun has been in to do Adoration with the P4-7 children. He has shown us the blessed sacrament and has given us a blessing. He intends to visit every Tuesday for religious stories and songs as well as doing adoration also!

## PARENT / TEACHER MEETINGS

Will take place on Thursday 7th December. School will close at **11am** on this day to allow meetings to begin at 11.10am.

## PRINCIPAL AWARD WINNERS - FOR MAKING "A GOOD START"

**P1/2** Thomas Kelly, Aoife Sweeney & Ronan Morris

**P2/3** Katie Pearson, Ryan McCusker, Isla McGovern & Cormac McCrory

**P4/5** Rián Hamilton, Dylan Moore, Khaleesi-Grace McCorkell & Clíodhna Daly

**P6/7** Ellie McGuigan, Conan McGovern, Ceállach Gormley & Mia Hamilton

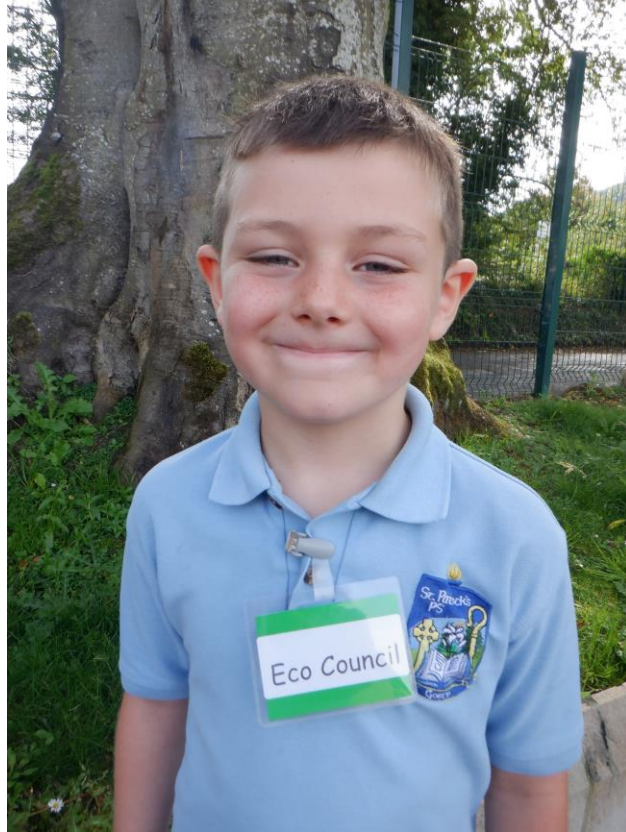
## SHOE BOX APPEAL

Letters will be sent home shortly with all the details. We donated **83 boxes** last year to this worthwhile cause. The Halloween break is an ideal time to put a box together with your child. Please note that **ALL BOXES** will be collected at the school during the first week of November.

## ECO-COUNCIL

We welcome our new Eco-Council - Aoife McCullagh, Cole McCullagh, Anna-Cáit O'Neill, Aimée McCullagh, Lisa McCullagh, Pheebey McCorkell & Mia Hamilton.











## AFTERSCHOOL GAELIC FOOTBALL WITH FIACHRA

"I am very happy to have Afterschools Gaelic back on. Fiachra's lessons are very enjoyable. We start off with different Gaelic drills to develop our skills. Fiachra then puts us into teams and we play matches. All of our P6 & P7 class go so it is great to have so many out. Fiachra is a great coach!"

***by Rónán McCullagh P7.***











## BEDTIMES

The yawning continues! We have been witnessing some very tired, pale faces and lethargic bodies over the past couple of weeks! We appreciate it has been particularly hard after the holidays to get back into school routine and school week bedtimes, but it is vital that children get adequate sleep to fully participate in learning the next day. Please see the very useful table below to get an idea of recommended bedtimes based on what time children have to get up.

Wilson Elementary  
about 2 years ago

**At what time should your child go to bed?**

Age	Wake-up time					
	6:00 AM	6:15 AM	6:30 AM	6:45 AM	7:00 AM	7:30 AM
	Sleeping time					
5	6:45 PM	7:00 PM	7:15 PM	7:30 PM	7:30 PM	8:15 PM
6	7:00 PM	7:15 PM	7:30 PM	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:30 PM
7	7:15 PM	7:15 PM	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:15 PM	8:45 PM
8	19:30	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:15 PM	8:30 PM	9:00 PM
9	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:15 PM	8:30 PM	8:45 PM	9:15 PM
10	8:00 PM	8:15 PM	8:30 PM	8:45 PM	9:00 PM	9:30 PM
11	8:15 PM	8:30 PM	8:45 PM	9:00 PM	9:15 PM	9:45 PM
12	8:15 PM	8:30 PM	8:45 PM	9:00 PM	9:15 PM	9:45 PM

## STUDENT COUNCIL

We welcome our new Student Council - Anna Corrigan, Elsie Morris, Fíanna Ward, Tadhg Green, Dáithí O'Neill, Rónán McCullagh & Niamh McCullagh.













## OCTOBER'S FOCUS IS MISSION MONTH

**World Missions Ireland - Children Helping Children.** As part of Mission Month, we will be saying a decade of the Rosary with the pupils every Monday morning during October and would love if this tradition could be carried on at home. Each class in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 will compose their own prayers and thoughts about children in need in other countries during this time. P6/7 also led an Assembly based on Mission Month.





## OUR NEW P1'S













## SEPTEMBER ACTIVE LEARNING IN P1/2

Primary 1 and 2 have been extremely busy in September settling into school. Our new P1's have got off to a super start. Our P2's have helped both the P1's and me to settle into our new class!!

Our topic, "Ourselves in school" allowed us to learn all about our new school environment. We have been learning all about our school and the people who help us in school. We really enjoyed our visit from Mrs Bunting our school Secretary, she told us all about her work in our school office. We also love Catherine our cook, she showed us her kitchen and she gives us lovely dinners everyday. Mrs Mc Bride is our classroom assistant, she is helping us with everything we do, our work and play in class everyday. Mrs Grugan comes in to visit us every Thursday morning. We have had fun language activities with Mrs Grugan, she has been very impressed with how we have all settled into our learning.

We have been learning all about ourselves, our family and our names. We know that we are all different and all special in our own way. We have been exploring our feelings, happy, sad, angry and scared. We know that it is ok to have different feelings. If we feel sad in school we know to tell the adult who can help us. We are learning our morning prayer, school prayer and grace before meals.

We have started to learn our sounds in P1. P2 have been revising the beginning and end sounds in words. We have been doing our finger exercises to help us have strong fingers to hold our pencils properly. We have made our sounds and painted our sounds, painted beautiful pattern pictures. We have learnt a lot through play indoors and outdoors and have had so much fun learning with our friends.

Here are some photos of what we have been doing.



















## SEPTEMBER ACTIVE LEARNING IN P2/3

P2/P3 have all settled back to school extremely well. We welcome Mr Oisin O'Kane who will be teaching P2/3 on Mondays and Tuesdays. We hope he will be happy here in St Patrick's.

It's been a busy September settling back. The children are enjoying the coaching from Robbie and Fiachra. Dance has returned with Chris, and music with Mrs Sweeney. Here are some photos of what we have been getting up to.







Primary 2 are 3 having lots of fun outdoors whilst actively learning. They are enjoying developing their gross motor and problem - solving skills.



## SEPTEMBER ACTIVE LEARNING IN P4/5

We have had a great start to the new year and Mr O'Hara has been very impressed with the primary 4s and 5s and the quality of work they have produced so far. During September we had great fun developing our problem solving skills using the IZAK 9 and the 6 Bricks resources. We used the IZAK 9 cube to work as a team and solve problems to find a hidden combination from a list of clues. This was a tricky task that needed us to work together and listen to each other to find the correct combination.

We used the 6 Bricks to develop firstly our listening skills as individuals. Mr O'Hara called out a list of instructions and what we had to follow. In the end we checked to see who had their towers built correctly. Next, we then got into groups and had to build the tallest tower. We had to plan and come up with a way to build the tallest tower that would not fall down and collapse. It was tricky finding a way to stop our towers from falling over but all the groups did a super job working as a team and problem solving their way to tall towers.















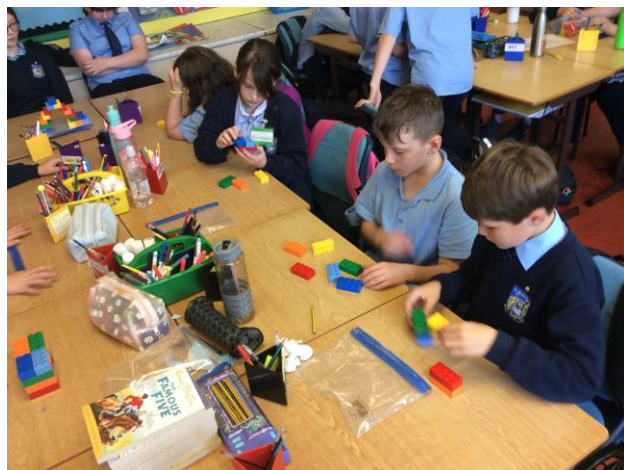
## SEPTEMBER ACTIVE LEARNING IN P6/7

I am delighted that P6 and P7 are settling so well back into work!

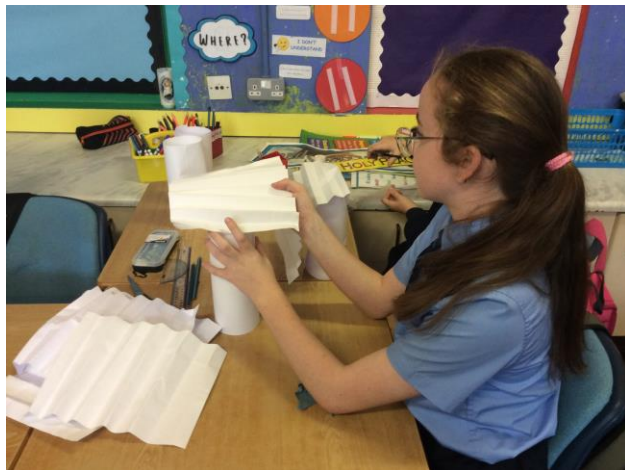
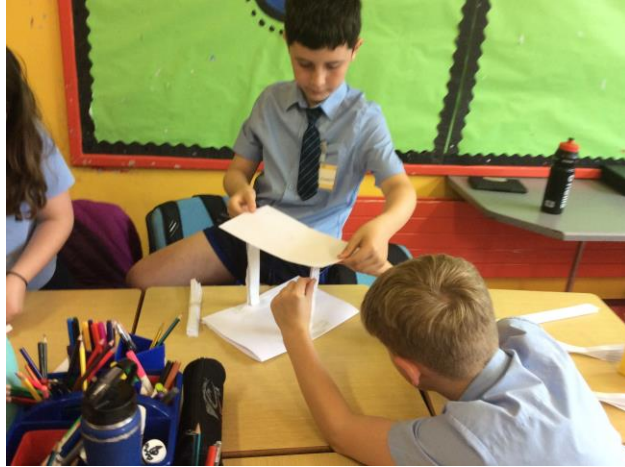
As well as our daily English and maths lessons, our topic is Bridges! We're loving the practical tasks related to this. So far, we've made bridges out of paper, Lego and six bricks. We're looking at local and worldwide bridges as well as their history! We're looking at engineering and other jobs associated with bridges.

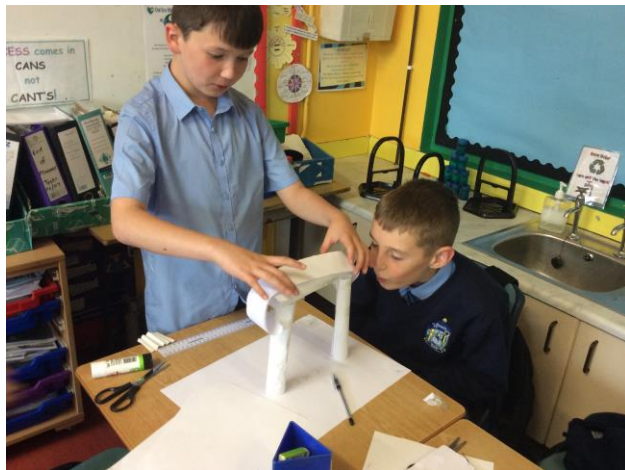
We've had fun with six brick challenges as well as IZAK9 also! We've used Just2easy quite a bit since we've come back to enhance our spelling and timestables practice on J2blast! We are enjoying Bingo with Mr O'Kane on a Wednesday! We are currently writing our stories and creating characters and being as creative as we can.

We've been busy getting our Accelerated Reader up and running and we are all enjoying it so far! We're working at getting points to reach our targets! It's a great way to develop our reading skills!















## MATHS WEEK

We have registered for Maths Week Ireland again this year. Maths week takes place from October 13th - October 21st this year. We always enjoy the practical maths opportunities and challenges that maths presents. Looking forward to a week of fun with maths!!!

## DANCE WITH CHRIS

"Last Thursday - 21st September, we began our dance classes again with Chris. First, we started off with little skills with our partners to check our listening skills. We played a pairs game that you had to find one partner or more, depending on the number Chris called out. We always finish our dance with relaxation time. We lie and listen to calming music. I really enjoy our dance lessons with Chris."

**by Niamh McCullagh P6.**













## DEVELOPMENT OF IRISH LANGUAGE / CULTURE

We are delighted to be focusing on this area this year and are extremely blessed to have two fluent Irish speakers amongst our teaching staff!!

Throughout the year we will be sharing the expertise of Mrs Bradley and Mrs Cunningham throughout all classes each week, to develop not only Irish language skills but also Handball skills and knowledge of Irish legends.

## ALLERGIES

We currently have pupils in the school with both nut and egg allergies. Could I ask all parents to ensure that **NUTS IN ANY FORM** are not sent into the school for break or lunch. (Please check contents on lunch items.) We can no longer accept cakes, treats, etc. being sent into the school for pupils' birthday celebrations. We would appreciate your support in this matter. Please also discuss with your child the reason behind **not sharing** their break or lunch with the other children. Sometimes this is difficult for the pupils to understand when we are usually trying to promote the ethos of sharing. Staff will also not be able to offer a break alternative to those who do not bring one to school - so please try and ensure that your child has a healthy break sent in their schoolbag each day. It is a long period from morning until 12.30pm.



## HOMEWORK MONITORING

**Please check your child's written homework nightly and sign.** Please also try to ensure that your child uses the correct posture when working at a desk. i.e. feet together under the desk and elbows off the desk! If you have any queries regarding homework, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher. Please ensure all written homework is completed by Friday. (It is not advisable to leave it all to Thursday night!) **Please be aware that pupils will also have daily homework activities. e.g. reading, spellings, mental maths. (P1 & P2 will have words and sounds to go over each evening.) See weekly schedule.**

## PROSPECTUS

Our school prospectus has now been updated and is available in the school office. Please contact the office if you would like a copy.

## CLOSURES

**HALLOWEEN HOLIDAYS - Monday 30th October, Tuesday 31st October & Wednesday 1st November.**

**Please remember - All Saints Day - 1st November & All Souls Day - 2nd November.**

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

**First Communion (Fr. Colhoun) - Saturday 25th May 2024**

**Confirmation - awaiting confirmation from Fr Donnelly.**

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

